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***Carnahan: "...this could signal a breakthrough in establishing a more productive international diplomacy that will make America, and the entire world, more secure."***

(WASHINGTON) - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) released the following statement today regarding news reports that a rare meeting between U.S. and Iranian diplomats has resulted in an agreement to hold future negotiations and a pledge from Iran to allow foreign inspectors into a newly disclosed uranium enrichment facility:

**"We must wait and see how things progress, but I am cautiously optimistic that this could signal a breakthrough in establishing a more productive international diplomacy that will make America, and the entire world, more secure,"** said Congressman Carnahan, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

**"Direct dialogue doesn't guarantee success, but it is the surest path to diplomatic progress and to bringing greater stability to the entire Middle East region."**

According to news accounts, a meeting was held earlier today between a senior U.S. diplomat and his Iranian counterpart - the first such high-level talks between Washington and Tehran in years. After this meeting, Iran agreed to hold additional talks before the end of the month with the U.S. and its allies, and diplomats said that preparations are now underway for the International Atomic Energy Agency to visit Iran's newly disclosed uranium enrichment facility in Qom within the next few weeks.

Congressman Carnahan has been a strong advocate for increased international engagement and meeting with our allies around the world. Numerous foreign policy experts from both sides of the aisle have endorsed President Obama's strategy of engagement. In an op-ed he wrote

for today's [Boston Globe](#) , former Bush Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns criticized conservatives who have said that the President should adopt a more confrontational approach: "They could not be more mistaken," Burns wrote. "The president's patient diplomatic pressure on Iran is a more sophisticated strategy with a better chance of actually arresting Iran's nuclear efforts."

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*Congressman Russ Carnahan is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Vice Chairman of the International Organizations, Human Rights & Oversight Committee and Member of the Middle East & South Asia Subcommittee.*